REGISTERED NO. M 4345

MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1944 No. 31

Field Marshal Sir JOHN DILL

NO PEACE UNTIL JAPAN IS DESTROYED

AFTER the defeat of Germany, the full resources of Britain will be thrown into the war against Japan. When the final day of reckoning with Germany comes, we shall know our task is but half-completed. There cannot be peace or rest until our other savage foe has been utterly destroyed

Field Marshal Sir JOHN DILL of the British Army, in Williamsburg on Monday, April 3

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[NOTE.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

A GREAT DEAL TO DO

"The enemy is increasing his activities in the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal. You will soon have plenty to do. Everybody would have liked to engage the enemy more closely. That is not my fault, nor yours. It is the fault of the enemy who does not co-operate. But I can promise that in the not far distant future you will have a great deal to do."

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR RICHARD PEIRSE, *Air Officer Commanding South-East Asia Command, in an address to Air Force men in Ceylon.*

◆

CARRY FORWARD

"General Wingate has been killed in the hour of his triumph. The Allies have lost one of the most forceful and dynamic personalities that this war has produced. You have lost the finest and most inspiring leader a Force could have wished for and I have lost a personal friend and faithful supporter. He has lit the torch. Together we must grasp it, and carry it forward. Out of your gallant and hazardous expedition into the heart of Japanese-held territory will grow the final reconquest of Burma and the ultimate defeat of the Japanese. He was so proud of you. I know you will live up to his expectations."

LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN, *the Supreme Commander of the South-East Asia Command, in an Order of the Day, issued to Wingate Forces, on Sunday, April 2.*

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JAPS WILL BE PUSHED BACK

The Japanese have made a resolute advance. It is only now they are encountering our troops. These troops are well trained. Their reinforcements are also well trained and their equipment is good. The Allied troops in Burma will succeed in pushing back the Japanese.

H.E. SIR CLAUDE AUCHINLECK, *Commander-in-Chief, in an address to officers at Waltair, on Monday, April 3.*

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BURMA: THE NEW JAP OFFENSIVE

IN an address to Officers at Waltair on Monday, His Excellency Sir Claude Auchinleck, India's Commander-in-Chief, has expressed confidence that Allied troops in Burma would succeed in pushing back the Japs. His Excellency pointed out that although the Japs had made a resolute advance, it was now that they were encountering our troops, which were well-trained and well-equipped to meet the new offensive of the enemy. That this particular offensive or something of the kind in the same area had been for sometime expected by the Allied Command was clearly explained by the Commander-in-Chief in his address to the Council of State last month. "We have always realized," he said, "that there was nothing to stop the enemy sending raiding columns, into these sparsely inhabited mountain tracts if he wanted to do so. It has always been open to the Japanese thus to cross our frontier and so to carry out a token invasion of India." In this connexion, it must be remembered that there is no such thing as a continuous "front" in Burma, as that is precluded by the very difficult nature of the country. Parties of light troops of the enemy could always come through the jungles and across the mountainous corrugations towards the Indian border, but mere infiltration and manœuvre cannot help the enemy.

Encirclement and Counter-encirclement

IN a hilly and jungle country like that in which the present operations are going on, it is obvious that mere encirclement of troops cannot mean their annihilation. It is only a process of encirclement and counter-encirclement and the propaganda blast of Tokyo that the Japanese have "smashed" the Seventh Indian Division has as much truth in it as its previous "annihilation" of our troops in the Arakan. These boasts are not going to help the enemy in any way. If he thinks that his "token invasion" will have a damaging effect upon the morale of the defenders of India, he is very much mistaken. Unless he can show that he has forced our troops to make a major withdrawal from their positions, he has nothing much to boast of. In a type of warfare in which both sides can and do encircle each other, it is clear that only the destruction of the opposing forces can enable the attackers to make any substantial gains.

NOW the broad position from the Japanese point of view may be stated to be something like this. Their ground forces had a bad knock in the Arakan, and they have suffered considerable losses not only in their major set back in the Mayu Range, but also in the fighting around Buthidaung. In the north, there has been a deterioration in their position on account of the advance of General Stilwell's Chinese and American forces who have been covering the construction of the Ledo Road. These forces have taken Jambu Bum on the pass separating the Hukawng from the Mogaung valley, and have opened up a prospect of developing a threat against Kamaing, Mogaung and Myitkyina, three important towns in northern Burma. Further, Gurkhas and Kachin levies have wrested Sumprabum, another key position in the north, from the Japanese. These successes have been achieved after the Japanese began their offensive across the Chindwin and into parts of Manipur State.

WHAT the Japanese are anxious to do now is to cause a diversion of Allied forces which the abortive Arakan offensive failed to achieve and to cut the main Allied communications in an effective manner. Thereafter, they would like to attack by ground forces the air-bases in Assam and Manipur, for it is here that the Allies have built up a significant air superiority.

IT was in pursuit of these objectives that the Japanese launched their three-pronged offensive across the Upper Chindwin in the middle of last month. This offensive differs from that which developed into the Mayu Range battle in one important respect—here the area affected is about 180 miles from north to south and some 80 miles deep, but in the Mayu offensive the whole area of intense fighting was only about seven square miles. At the time of writing, our rearguards are continuing to operate successfully on the Tiddim-Imphal road; the Japanese attacks on our defensive positions east and north of Imphal have been repulsed; but the Japanese raiding parties that reached the Imphal-Kohima road have not yet been dislodged. The threatened Jap attack on Imphal has not materialized, but vital battles are expected to be staged in this area. Our troops which have air superiority and superior fire-power are waiting for the Japs to emerge from the jungles before forcing things to an issue. Meanwhile, the special guerilla forces organized by the late General Wingate, one of the greatest military leaders of the present war, whose death in a plane crash is deeply regretted in India and elsewhere, are slashing at the rear communications of the Japanese. In the very near future, the Japanese have to come out and meet our troops in pitched battle. It is the result of this battle that will count.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

The Red Army in Rumania—M. Molotov's Declaration. The Red Army has kept up its terrible pace of advance and pursued German and Rumanian troops into Rumania itself. M. MOLOTOV in a statement which was broadcast by the Moscow radio on Monday (April 3) said, "The Supreme Command of the Red Army has issued an order to the advancing Soviet formations to pursue the enemy until his rout and capitulation." The Soviet Foreign Commissar adds that the entry into Rumania is dictated solely by military necessity and it does not in any way affect the integrity of Rumanian territory or the existing social order. He pointed out that the Red Army's advance to the State frontier between Soviet Russia and Rumania was the first step in the restoration of the frontier established by the treaty of 1940 which was broken by Rumania by her treacherous attack in 1941 in the wake of Hitlerite Germany.

Now the war has been carried right into Rumania itelf. Marshal KONIEV's armoured spearheads have reached points more than 15 miles in the interior. Within a week of their crossing the Dniester river they reached the river Pruth on a 50-mile front. This is a very great achievement and was rightly celebrated by Moscow by a salute of 324 guns which is stated to be the biggest salvo the Russian capital has heard till now. The significance of the celebration lay in the fact that the Red Army reached the line from where the Wehermacht started its drive against the Ukraine. The river Pruth has not been a serious obstacle at all to the Red Army which has already crossed in strength the broad and fast flowing Dniester. Compared with that river the Pruth is more or less like a big muddy ditch.

* * *

River Pruth crossed—Manstein moves back. On a sixty-mile front between Dorohoi in the north and to the north-west of Jassy in the south, Soviet tanks have crossed the river Pruth in considerable numbers, and have succeeded in capturing a good road leading to Jassy, the capital of Moldavia, formerly VON MANSTEIN's headquarters. This means that MANSTEIN must have moved his headquarters further back. Not only his defence line on the Bug but also parts of the Dniester defence line have been smashed by the Red Army which has pursued him beyond the Pruth.

INDIA TO BE

(*By* R.G.)

This India, this something more than a word,
This land, this people, this nation to be,
By gusts of freedom and turbulence stirred,
Like leaves and boughs of a wind-wooed tree,

Slowly to consciousness of the whole
Knits the multiform limbs and cells,
Infusing in all a single soul
Of courage and pride, until there swells

The cry of a nation come to birth
Between shy mist-hung mountain chains
And sapphire oceans hushing the earth
And herded clouds heavy with monsoon rains—

Youngest of nations but growing strong
And soon to discard the swaddling bands
And infancy's kindly cradle-song
For stormier tunes and unheld hands,

And front the future of strife and grace
With feet not at odds but ready to run
And sinews knotting each in place,
Many indeed but also one.

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I.A.F. BURMA SQUADRONS ARE "EYES OF THE ARMY"

(*Special to* MADRAS WAR REVIEW)

Indian Air Force pilots on the Burma Front have frequently been described during recent months as the "eyes of the Army."

I asked a reconnaissance pilot, Flying Officer M. Ramunny, from Madras, what this term really implies, writes an I.A.F. Public Relations Officer, on the Burma Front.

"Every morning a call comes through from Army Headquarters to the Air Liaison Officer of the Squadron saying what the Army Commander wants to see during the day," replied Ramunny. "It may be enemy dispositions a few hundred yards away from our front line or it may be their movements along far off jungle tracks or along winding rivers.

"Pilots may be asked to find cunningly concealed positions or likely targets for our bombers or fighters, or to estimate the damage done by our bombers and fighters on the previous day. Our aircraft are fitted with cameras so that the pilots, who are trained in photography, can check their visual observation.

"Our work is not spectacular. We are not expected to shoot down enemy fighters. We fly not very far above the ground, skimming the tree-tops and flying between the hills. It's a job which demands patience, judgment and—just a little nerve."

"AT YOUR SERVICE, SIR!"

—*Specially drawn for the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

Now let us have a brief look at the situation between Nikolaiev and Tarnopol. The Russian capture of Voznedausk and Novaya-Odessa between Pervomaisk and Nikolaiev threatened not only the defence of Nikolaiev but also the security of Odessa, 60 miles to the west of the town. The object of the stubborn German defence between Nikolaiev and Odessa was to protect the German garrison in the Crimea, for if Odessa goes, the Germans lose a valuable naval port covering the Crimea. Already there are reports regarding the evacuation of the Crimea. Nikolaiev is a large regional and industrial centre, and important railway junction; it is also one of the largest ports on the Black Sea and an important German strong point at the mouth of the southern reaches of the Bug.

* * *

Capture of Nikolaiev—Odessa threatened—Evacuation of the Crimea

The capture of this last of the German coast bastions before Bessarabia brings the Russians within 75 miles of Odessa which is called the "Pearl of the Black Sea."

As regards Odessa itself the overwhelming mass of the Russian forces is pressing in on this Black Sea base of the enemy. There is a three-pronged Soviet drive to bottle up this base. Firstly, General MALINOVSKY's spearheads are driving ahead at right angles across Odessa's two rivers. To their right Marshal KONIEV's forces are pouring down the east bank of the Dniester. On the west bank of the river, another part of Marshal KONIEV's forces are aiming to complete the isolation of Odessa from the rear.

It will not be a matter for surprise if in these circumstances, with Rumania itself in great danger, Hitler decides on evacuating the German and Rumanian troops from the Crimea.

GREAT DEVOTION TO DUTY AND SELF-SACRIFICE

SIR HUGH HOOD'S TRIBUTE TO SUBEDAR SUBRAMANIAM

"I cannot imagine a greater example of devotion to duty and self-sacrifice than that of Subedar Subramaniam, who gave his life to save others on the Cassino front. We have in Madras a long tradition of devotion to duty, loyalty and self-sacrifice, and the past history of the Madras Army and its traditions are something which require to be lived up to."

—SIR HUGH HOOD, *Adviser to H.E. the Governor of Madras, at the 89th Anniversary Celebration of the Tondaimandalam Thuluva Vellala School, Madras, on Monday (April 3).*

POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF RUSSIA'S ADVANCE

THE starting success of the Red Army in the last few days achieved at the highly unfavourable season of spring thaw has reached a point where fundamental strategic objectives, which are also economic and political, come directly in view, writes *The Times*.

It must have become an urgent question to the Germans how long they can keep the Rumanian Government docile and the Rumanian army in the fighting line and the natural resources of Rumania at the disposal of their war machine. Already their writers are explaining away the alarming losses of ground in the Western Ukraine with the frenzy of specious eloquence which in itself suggests that they expect soon to have greater losses to excuse. The whole plan of the defence of Europe has been invoked. It is alleged that the "elastic defence" of the eastern front is making it possible to form strategic reserves of men and material which are not visibly in present use on the eastern front or elsewhere but "will play an important, perhaps even a decisive part in the development of war at a given hour." The given hour is evidently the moment of landings in the west.

In the *Veelkischer Beobachter*, Sundermann, Deputy Chief of the Reich Press, dilates on the "great link connecting the events in the eastern theatre of war with those in the south and with the threat from the west" and reveals with the plan of the German command is governed by the conception that the fighter in the east must be protected from stab in the back. Special pleading of this laborious kind is the most convincing testimony the enemy can pay to the effectiveness of joint planning by the United Nations.

INVASION OF ITALY

It acknowledges that the Allied invasion of Italy and the imminent landings in the west, even now in their preparatory phase, are making their decisive contribution to the overthrow of the German armies in the Ukraine. It must be small consolation to Manstein that he is protected from a stab in the back if thereby he becomes exposed to bludgeon blows in the face. The reassuring effect of the explanation in the German press depends on the assumption that he is withdrawing in good order from a territory of little value.

In fact all news suggests that his retreat is becoming daily more disorganized and more costly and it is quite certain that the front on which he has been defeated is of first rate importance for the future of the war. Behind him lie vital oil wells and refineries, source of one-third of the entire oil fuel supplies of Germany. If they fall in Allied hands the exhaustion of the enemy's present reserves will mean the end of his capacity to continue the fight.

Ploesti is perhaps the greatest, single strategic prize in Europe. Geographical factors governing the defence of this cardinal site become of ever-increasing importance as the Russian armies drive across the rivers of the Ukraine and Bessarabia.

An invasion from the direction of Uman having the oil refineries as its distant objective, would have to cross the Dniester into the hilly country of Bessarabia and it would then naturally thrust down the valleys into the Danubian plain before swinging to the right hand round the Transylvanian Alps to Ploesti. The commander holding the coasts west of the Crimea would have an easier task from Odessa; he could drive straight across the plain. Manstein confronts the threat of the first of these operations and if he cannot counter it the second may soon develop. When his remaining position in the Dnieper bend began to collapse before the triple offensive of Generals Zhukov, Koniev and Malinovsky, it was natural to expect that he would make a determined stand on the Bug where a formidable defensive zone has been prepared.

The middle sector of this zone, however, was swept away with such apparent ease that it had to be assumed that Manstein, if indeed his plans had not completely miscarried must have intended to fight only a delaying action on the Bug and base his real defence on the Dniester. Now the impetus of General Koniev's thrust across the Bug has carried him one stage right through the Dniester on a front of 60 miles and along a stretch of 30 miles and he is stated to have continued without pause across the river into Bessarabia. So swift was the advance and so easy the crossing of the stream, that is here 200 yards wide and fast flowing, that it makes it impossible to believe that there was any organized resistance, and yet it is equally incredible that Manstein planned to abandon this second river barrier without a struggle in circumstances that open a way for a vast turning movement at the expense of his forces still fighting on the Lower Bug.

If Manstein still possesses resources to retrieve this dangerous situation he is bound to show them at once and his immediate reactions will indicate whether or not the battle has gone finally beyond the possibility of control. The Russians having pushed so rapidly ahead and so stretched their communications cannot but be vulnerable in their newly acquired bridgehead on the right bank of the Dniester provided the power to exploit their danger exists. Manstein must attack them there now or never and if he lets this opportunity pass it will be taken as a sure sign that his armies are broken up and his situation nearly desperate. It is true that while the line of the Middle Dniester has caved in suddenly that of the Lower Bug far to the south still holds with great tenacity. But if the Russians once consolidate their footholds in Bessarabia, whole areas of the two valleys must pass rapidly into their power. With it would go Odessa, the port of supply for the hostile armies isolated in the Crimea and the key to an advance into Rumania by way of the coastal plain. It is small wonder that the Rumanians whose armies were remorselessly sacrificed before Stalingrad, and the survivors for the most part penned in the Crimea, are showing an increasing sign of panic or that the Germans who well know that any campaign for the defence of the Danube valley will coincide with their most urgent pre-occupations in the west are instituting emergency measures in Hungary for buttressing their whole shaken position in the Balkan peninsular.

THROUGH A GLASS DARKLY

(*By* R.G.)

Learning only from papers and books
  The terrors and torments of war,
As one through binoculars looks
  At a hunting furious and far,

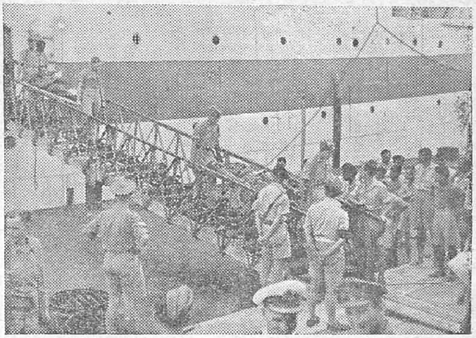
I discern defined in the field
  Of this spyglass courage and pain,
A print-sharp image revealed
  Bright to the retinal brain.

But words to the ear and the heart
  Through distance carry no wave
To excite grief's coil or impart
  The vibrant truth of the brave.

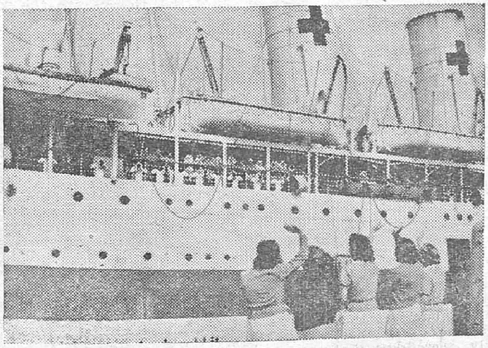
Here, I sit and descry:
  There, they labour and bleed—
O mind, pluck the heartstrings that I
  May fitly match word to their deed.

RED CROSS AID TO PRISONERS OF WAR

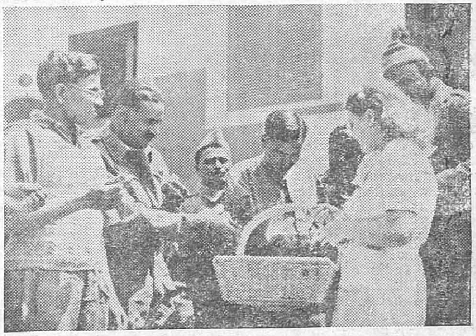
INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS PRISONERS OF WAR—The first contingent of Indian prisoners from Germany, whose repatriation was arranged by the Red Cross, disembarked at a port in the Middle East and boarded a Red Cross Train on their journey home.



The stretcher cases being disembarked.

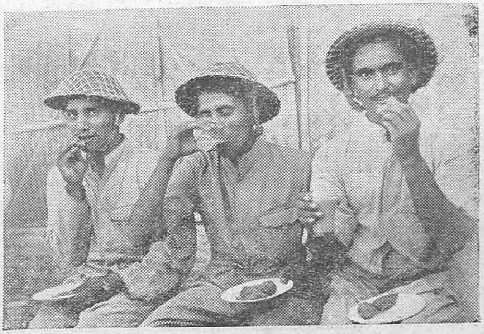


W.R.E.N. Naval canteen workers welcoming the arrival of the prisoners of war on the hospital ships.



Naval Canteen girl distributing Indian sweetmeats to the returned prisoners.

These veteran merchant marines photographed with the Red Cross sign of the ship in background, had reason to look happy on disembarkation.



MOBILE CANTEENS WITH THE TROOPS.—Mrs. Clubwalla, with her enthusiastic band of helpers, visits the camps of Indian forces in South India with mobile canteens, providing tasty foods from funds privately raised. These three Indians appear to be enjoying the welcome change from their ordinary army diet.

THEY GIVE THEIR BLOOD FOR OTHERS

BRITISH and Indian servicemen are giving their blood for their comrades. Blood taken from soldiers, who give it voluntarily, is scientifically stored by the Army Blood Transfusion Service for use when emergency transfusions have to be given.

During the Arakan campaign many hundreds of pints of blood from the Army Blood Transfusion Service went to save the lives of servicemen wounded or injured. The service in India came into being in September 1942, with the arrival of two British base transfusion units and a few field units. To-day those base units are main army blood depots at Poona and Dehra Dun. These are connected to field transfusion units through advance base units at Bangalore and Calcutta.

All these units have to be supplied with the necessary apparatus and equipment for drawing and transfusing blood. The supply of instruments is limited but in spite of this difficulty the service has through the untiring energy of its officers and men been able to meet all demands. Plans for considerable extension of the use of this valuable life-saving measure are well forward.

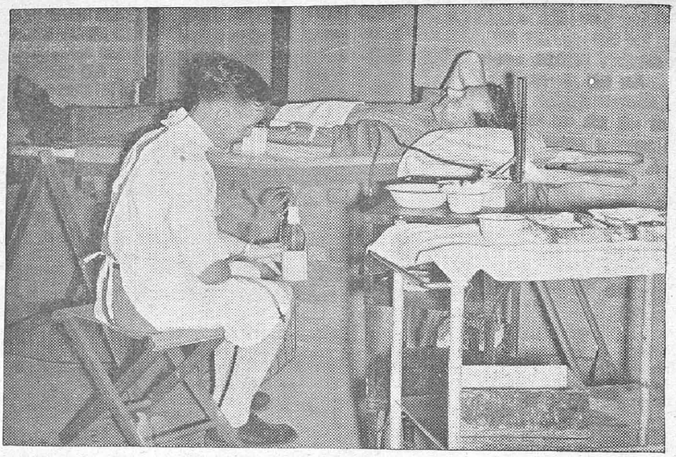
At present the Army Transfusion Service is drawing nearly 1,000 pints of blood every week. As more equipment arrives the output will be increased. Courses in blood transfusion have been started for medical officers and many are now skilled in this new form of treatment.

After blood is collected it is made into wet plasma. Dry plasma is at present made in India only to a limited extent owing to lack of drying machines, but these are being imported. Dry plasma is superior to wet plasma because it can be kept for as long as three years without changing and is not affected by heat.

Blood is given both by servicemen and civilians. There are two types of donors —those who give blood periodically and those who are held in readiness for cases in which plasma could not be used and in which actual blood would have to be transfused directly.

"Patients who need the blood of the latter come at irregular intervals and consequently long periods may elapse before donors on the waiting list may be summoned," said a senior medical officer at General Headquarters, India. "This makes some of these potential donors think that their offers of donation are being forgotten. The army medical authorities are anxious to remove this impression. We want many more blood volunteers."

Appeals for civilian donors will soon be made by the Army Transfusion Service in many towns in India. It is hoped that when these appeals are made the public will give wholehearted support. Every pint of blood given may save a life.



THE ARMY BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE, INDIA.—Blood transfusion is regarded as the greater medical advance in the treatment of the wounded soldier that this war has yet produced. Demands on the British organization have become very heavy and it is now necessary to make the Army in this country as self-supporting as possible. General Headquarters have created an Army Transfusion Service for India on similar lines to that established in the United Kingdom. Two Blood Depots, set up at Poona and Dehra Dun have been equipped with up-to-date apparatus for processing blood products and have been staffed by personnel who until recently were working in the Army Transfusion Service, England. These two Depots act as the Headquarters of the Army Transfusion Service for the West and East of India, respectively.

A donor in the process of giving blood.

A mobile refrigerator.

"PETERBOROUGH," in the *Daily Telegraph*, tells the following good story:—

The C.R.A. was watching a gunner subaltern doing a shoot. The subaltern was working out all his calculations on a small slide-rule with considerable speed and accuracy.

After observing him for a time with slight distaste, the C.R.A. suddenly snatched his slide-rule away. "Your slide-rule's been shot away. What are you going to do now?" he asked.

Without a word the subaltern felt in his battledress pocket, produced another slide-rule and carried on.

R.I.N.'S FINE WAR RECORD

"THE record of the Royal Indian Navy has been second to none in this war," declared Sir F. E. James in a speech during the Budget discussion in the Central Legislative Assembly at New Delhi. Sir F. E. James asserted his belief that India's future needs in defence matters would lie in a small and efficient army, a larger Navy and a larger Air Force.

In the course of a lengthy reference to the Royal Indian Navy Sir F. E. James said:

"It is sometimes forgotten in this House and elsewhere that the Royal Indian Navy is the senior service. As a Navy it is well over 300 years old. The present Royal Indian Navy is the direct inheritor of the Navy of the East India Company which, I believe, was established in 1612. For 160 years it was called the Bombay Marine. Then it became first His Majesty's and then the Royal Indian Marine, and it had that nomenclature for about 51 years. For the last 10 years it has been the Royal Indian Navy, and I am glad that I was a member of this House when the Royal Indian Naval Discipline Act was passed in 1934."

PROPHECY COME TRUE

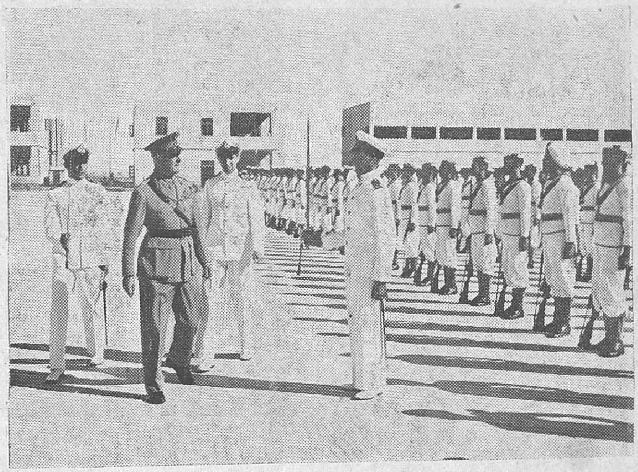
Sir F. E. James recalled saying on that occasion that when the time of emergency came, the Royal Indian Navy would contribute not a little, first of all, to the defence of India's coasts and then, if need be, to the defence of the Empire. He claimed that that prophecy was true, and added:

"The record of the Royal Indian Navy has been second to none in this war. After the last war, in common with many other Navies, particularly in common with the Royal Navy, this small fleet suffered great neglect. Although it did useful service in the last war, it was ruthlessly cut down by the Inchcape Committee. . . . The reduction in the Indian Navy after the last war was a very great disservice to this country, for which she even to-day suffers. The Rawlinson Committee marked a turning point, and in 1934, the Royal Indian Navy again achieved combatant status. It has justified that status in this war. I have no time to refer to all the exploits of His Majesty's Indian ships in the Persian Gulf, in the Red Sea, in the Indian Ocean, in the Arabian Sea, and the Bay of Bengal, on the coasts of Africa, on convoy work in the south-west and south-east, and in the great uneasy Atlantic."

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: "And in the Mediterranean."

Sir F. E. James: "And in the Mediterranean. I claim therefore that this small, rapidly growing but efficient force . . . is worth a role greater than that which has been allotted to it. For years the defence policy of India before this war and indeed before the last war has been governed by the mentality of the Bengal Lancer. Tradition dies hard, and although to-day the dangers of the north-west are forgotten, yet there still remains in many

(*Continued on page 12*)



"The record of the Royal Indian Navy has been second to none in the war"—Sir F. E. James.

The above photograph was taken when H. E. Lord Wavell visited the Training Establishments of the Royal Indian Navy at Karachi. H.E. the Viceroy is seen inspecting the guard-of-honour on the parade ground of H.M.I.S. Himalaya.

W.A.S. (B)'S SERVE THE SOLDIERS

"On alternative Wednesdays all ranks will be specially well-shaved with their hair cut and in clean clothes—and no swearing."

This notice, displayed at an A.A. gun-site on the Assam-Burma border, shows what serious attention is accorded by out-of-the-way units in the forward area to the fortnightly visits of the W.A.S. (B) (Women's Auxiliary Service, Burma) canteens. And their interest is fully reciprocated.

"We are particularly glad to visit these lonely gunner posts," Sgt. Elaine Cheverton told an Indian Army Observer. "We feel that we've adopted them —or they have adopted us, I don't quite know which!"

The W.A.S. (B)s (pronounced "Wozbees") have now been operating a canteen service in this area—as well as elsewhere on the border—for four months. At the moment there are ten of them—the majority "army wives and army daughters," most of them with a pre-war Burma connexion. They hope to get more canteens shortly.

One of their latest undertakings is a divisional library, with books and vehicles supplied by headquarters.

For operational reasons they are not yet permitted to visit the most forward areas but in the meantime they tour on a wide radius and bring news and the "feminine touch." They offer, torches, plum cakes, tinned foods, watch straps, pencils, cigarettes, sweets and writing paper to a larger number of isolated units.

They are hoping that very shortly, as the Jap is pushed back, they and their canteen lorries will be going well into Burma itself.

Their routine day starts at 9 a.m. and they are seldom home before 6-30 in the evening. Sometimes, on their longer trips, they have to stay out all night, getting accommodation either at a hospital or in a special "basha" (hut) at their disposal in a headquarters in the field. Except for an occasional argument between their vehicles—until recently they had only three-ton trucks with no special equipment—and the roadside they have had few adventures —not that they want any. And if their lorry does get ditched there is always some unit more than willing to do a Sir Galahad—hardly surprisingly in a countryside where a pretty girl is rarer than a soda fountain in the Sahara.

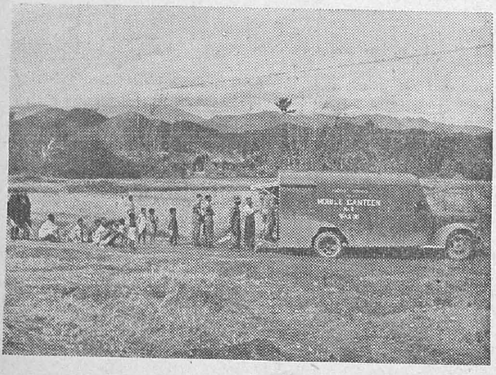
Most of the W.A.S. (B)s, though, had enough adventures in the Burma evacuation. Mrs. Taylor, the Commandant, received the O.B.E. for her work during that hectic period and Mrs. Morton, Officer Commanding of one unit, and Miss Pelly, who was a "cypherette" in Rangoon, as well as many of the others, came out of Burma "the hard way."

Altogether it is hardly to be wondered at that the troops on this otherwise exclusively masculine front like to make a special effort to appear neat and tidy for these visits—and even to say "dash" and "bother" instead of anything more picturesque.

W.A.S. (B)'S SERVE FRONT LINE TROOPS

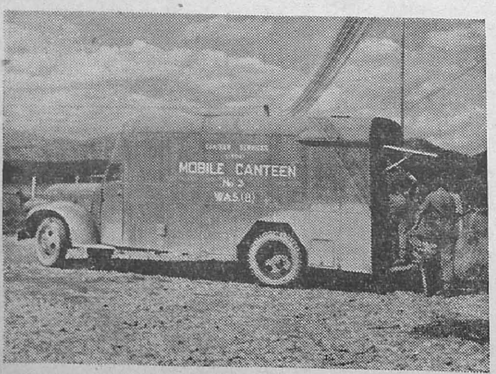
W.A.S. (B)'s SERVE FRONT LINE TROOPS—Giving valiant service behind the line, on the Burma front, are girls of the Women's Auxiliary Service (Burma). Manning mobile canteens, they go wherever it is possible to serve the soldiers, providing them with tea, coffee, food, cigarettes and other items.

Cpl. Pelly, one of the W.A.S. (B) Mobile Canteen workers.



Local Manipuri Indians watching soldiers being served at a W.A.S. (B) Mobile Canteen.

A counter is fixed at the rear of W.A.S. (B) Mobile Canteen. Here are A.A. men receiving refreshment.

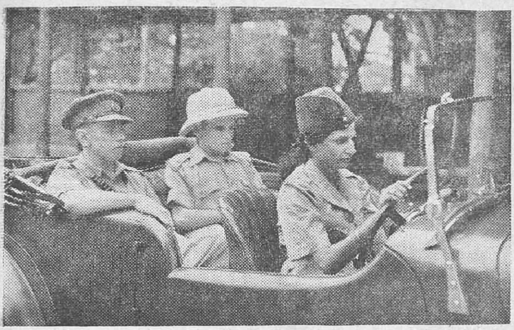


A W.A.S. (B) Mobile Canteen serving men of an A.A. site, and also R.A.F. personnel of a front line squadron.

Cheerful W.A.S. (B) Mobile Canteen workers serving soldiers.

W.A.C.(I). ANNIVERSARY ON APRIL 9

[The W.A.C.(I.) anniversary falls on Sunday (April 9). A large number of girls from various Provinces of India have joined the organization. We publish below a few W.A.C.(I.) photographs.]

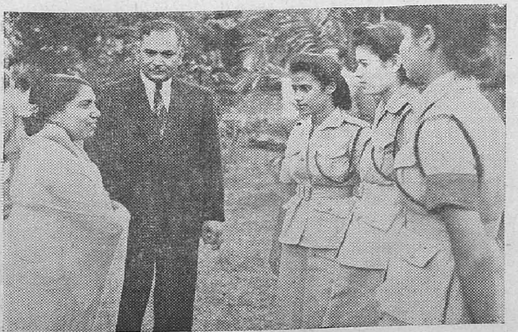


Her Highness the Begum of Dacca is a leading member of W.A.C. (I.). She is seen driving a car.

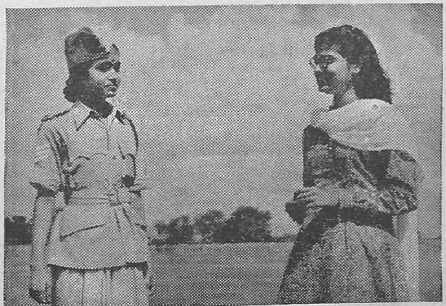
Her Highness the Begum of Dacca engaged in testing the tyre of a car.

H.H. the Maharaja of Travancore's 'At Home' to the Armed Forces in Madras—Members of the W.A.C. (I.) were present in large numbers and in the foreground are three taking tea. From left to right *are Private De'Souza, Private Arujah and Corporal Baptist.*

H.H. Maharani Sethu Parvathi Bai talking to Sergeant F. Johnstone and Private F. Leonard of the W.A.C. (I.). To her left *is Colonel G. S. Gill, O.B.E., I.M.S. (Retd.)*; in the background *can be seen Major Eapen.* On the right *is Mr. S. Gopalan, Station Director, A.I.R., Madras.*



H.H. the Maharani with Colonel Gill, Sergeant F. Johnstone, Private F. Leonard and Private L. Gaughan.



The W.A.C. (I) consists of girls from various Provinces. Here we see two North Indians. They are Miss Sita Kamath (in uniform) *and Miss Vimal Sashital.*

(Continued from page 9.)

quarters—quarters which are influential in the defence organization of this country—an outlook which is not helpful to the growth and development of the Royal Indian Navy. I said that to-day the dangers of the North-West Frontier are forgotten. We think of the north-east, where the only rational form of transport is the air. We think of the coasts and coastal waters of India. Those are her real frontiers, and those are the frontiers on which India must make herself secure in the days after the war.

"As a member of the Defence Consultative Committee I had the privilege of visiting some of the training establishments of the Royal Indian Navy—His Majesty's Indian ships *Dilqwar Bahadur* and *Himalaya*. I should like here to pay very warm tribute to the enthusiasm and vision of those who are in command of those establishments. My colleagues and I were deeply impressed by the spirit, discipline and keenness of the men and boys who, after a period of training, seemed to be quite competent to handle even the most complicated machinery. I would urge that the policy adopted in these training establishments should be strengthened and extended to the utmost limit. Training for the Navy is not an easy matter. Not only do you have to establish new traditions, but old traditions—old seafaring traditions that have existed many years in this country—we have got to try to recapture them."

AFTER THE WAR

Concluding his speech, Sir F. E. James said:

"I do enter a very earnest plea for a better consideration, on the part of this House, of the public and of Government, for the Royal Indian Navy. Sir, I believe that India's future needs in defence matters will lie in a small and efficient army, a larger Navy and a larger Air Force. Without touching on any internal political arrangements that may be made in the future, I venture to suggest that some Union of India or in India, and possibly with other groups, for defence purposes will be necessary. From the point of view of trade and commerce, India is an island, and if she ever wishes to have a mercantile marine worthy of the name and tradition she bears she must have a Navy to protect it. After the war, when the army is demobilized, I hope that the Royal Indian Navy will be consolidated and strengthened. It is not so difficult, or it will not be so difficult, to provide ships after the war. It will be more difficult to provide men with the tradition and training required. May I express therefore the hope that with this war the dominance of the land outlook will have gone for ever.

Members of the American Army now stationed in England write home that most of the English people they meet are not at all familiar with the mode of living in the States, but with so many Americans around, they are now eager to learn even the simplest details. One soldier, recently, was showing his English hostess a hotel menu that his sister had sent to him from the States. He was quite astonished when his hostess spoke up in a tone of horror: "Baked Indian Pudding! Can it be possible in a civilized country?"

RESERVES ON THE ASSAM-BURMA FRONT.—While front-line troops are battling with the Japanese, those in reserve carry on their everyday occupations while awaiting their turn for action.

Members of a Mountain Artillery Regiment find time for a game of cards.

ANGLING CLUB IN CHITTAGONG

(*Special to* MADRAS WAR REVIEW)

AIRMEN stationed in the Chittagong area have formed their own Angling Club, and practically every day finds some of them standing by dhobie ponds and jhils dangling their lines in true Waltonian fashion.

"We've certainly made a hit with our angling club", said the President, a corporal from Tottenham, who was formerly an engineer, and who has been a member of the London Angling Association for the last ten years. "New members are constantly being found. The surprising thing is that few of them have ever done any fishing before. Of course, those of us who have fished in the English rivers and ponds find many differences. At home, we had no red ants and leeches to annoy us while we indulged in our sport, and certainly hadn't to keep on the look out for snakes."

The enthusiatic Honorary Secretary of the Club, an L.A.C. from Wallasey, formerly a manufacturing chemists' representative, is a convert to fishing, and is every bit as keen on the pastime as the old hands.

The Club recently had its first contest, when a trophy presented by the President's wife was the principal award. Like her husband, she is keen on this angling game, and has been a member of the Pure River Society for several years. A Lambley (Nottingham) airman won the contest with a catch weighing $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Incidentally, the Commanding Officer's bearer caught an 18-pounder in the same pool that afternoon, but, unfortunately for him, he was not a member of the club.

Now all good anglers are equally efficient trencherman and these Chittagong fishermen are not to be outdone. They are now arranging for a bumper dinner at which the winner of the contest will receive his trophy. The atmosphere of the typical English riverside inn will be absent, but there'll be some good fun, as well as the usual stock of fisherman's tables.

A traveller noticed a number of men working in a field and stopped for a chat with the farmer who owned the land.

"Most of these men are ex-soldiers," explained the farmer.

"Oh, really!" replied the other. "They are all privates, I suppose?"

"Well, as a matter of fact, they aren't," said the farmer. "There are one or two privates, and one of them was a corporal. But one is a major and one a colonel."

"And are they all good men?

"Well, the privates are pretty good on the whole, and the corporal isn't bad at all."

"What about the major?"

"Oh, he's only so-so."

"And the colonel?"

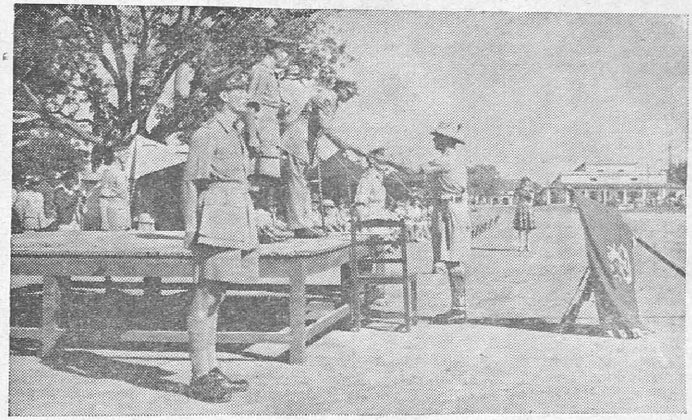
"Well," replied the farmer hesitatingly. "I'm not going to say anything against a man who's been a colonel in the Army, but I've made up my mind that, whatever happens, I'm not going to hire any generals!"

* * *

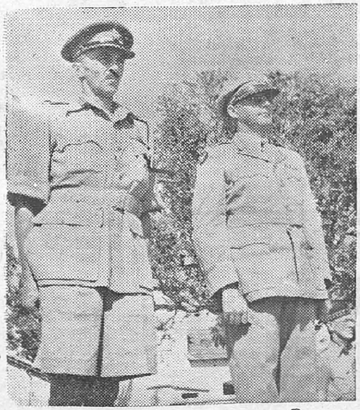
CAPTAIN: "I hope the next time I see you, you'll be a second-lieutenant."

PRIVATE (*flustered*): "Yes, sir. Thank you, sir. The same to you sir."

O.T.S. PASSING OUT PARADE AT BANGALORE



O.T.S. PASSING OUT PARADE, BANGALORE.—Colonel George E. Felton of the United States Army Air Force (bending down) *presenting the book " Generals and Generalship " by Lord Wavell to Officer Cadet P. McGrath, the outstanding cadet of the course.*

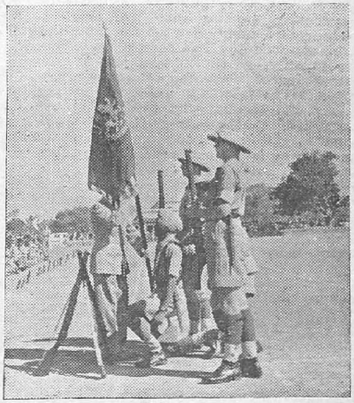


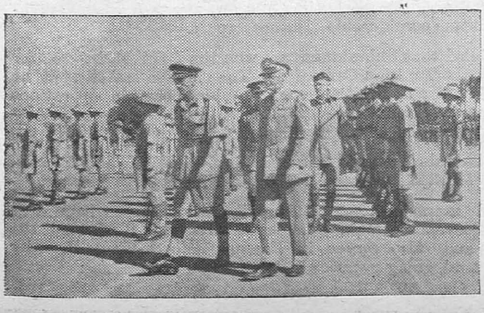
Left:

Colonel George E. Felton (right) *and Brigadier L. B. Jones, D.S.O., I.A.* (left), *Comdt. of the School.*

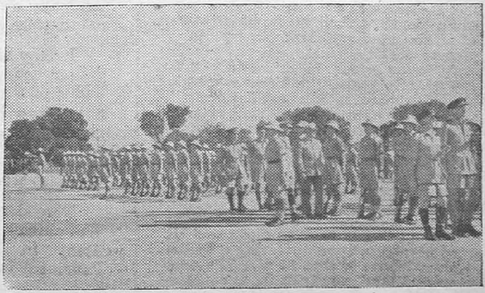
Right:

Colonel Felton presenting Wavell Banner to 'D' Company—Banner Bearer Officer Cadet Arjit Singh of Harindar, Faridkot (kneeling down).





Colonel Felton, Comdt. of the School, inspecting 'A' Company on parade.



'A' Company on parade.

"EXCITING JOB" IN THE ARAKAN

(Special to MADRAS WAR REVIEW*)*

THE sight of a Royal Air Force officer pushing a kistie (fishing boat) over the mudbanks of a Burmese river recently, came as a shock to an advance patrol of the Fourteenth Army. He was, however, returning from an important quest to find a crashed Japanese aircraft. In that kistie were numerous relics and souvenirs that would delight his colleagues of that very exclusive branch of the Royal Air Force known as "Technical Intelligence".

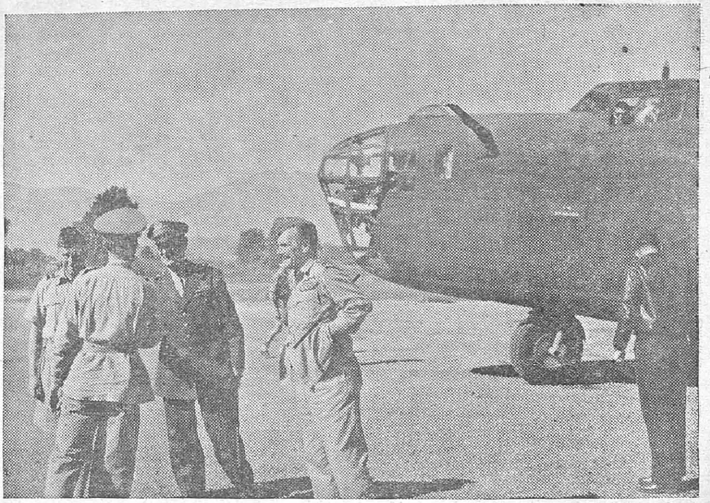
Technical intelligence is, indeed, one of the most exciting jobs available to members of the Royal Air Force, and is concerned with crashed enemy aircraft. Every time a Zero or other enemy machine is brought down by our fighters or ack-ack guns, the "Tech. I." men are on the spot as soon as possible, looking for any interesting gadgets or new developments which will assist them in unravelling the constructional details of the latest enemy models.

Working on the Arakan Front is a group of Technical Intelligence Officers and men under the direction of a Flight Lieutenant and in recent weeks their work has carried them into places well within the range of the Japanese guns.

A Pilot Officer, formerly an Ayrshire engineering student, had an exciting journey into Maungdaw at the time the Japanese held the Razabil feature above the junction of the Indian and Buthidaung roads. "We had to cross a series of paddy fields within full view of the enemy and certainly let the jeep go all out during that hectic dash. The Japs tried to get us but nothing came near. On the way out, I saw my hat go sailing away, but for once didn't bother about losing it. Even as we returned I was not very concerned about stopping to pick up my hat, although I saw it still lying in the paddy fields," he said.

On more than one occasion, this Ayrshire officer has been forced to spend a night in the jungle because the return journey was impossible under the cover of darkness, although not so long ago, he was more fortunate. He managed to reach a village police station and was entertained as a guest of the local constabulary!

A steel manufacturer from Sheffield, who in peace-time explored the Derbyshire caves and pot-holes in order to find some excitement at week-ends is now getting plenty of thrills from his wartime job. This Flying Officer was recently trying to beat the tide as he was coming up a narrow creek in a kistie. "To make matters worse, the kistie sprung a leak and we had to bale out furiously", he said. "Eventually we met another boat and managed to transfer ourselves and the things we had brought away from the crash into it. Next we were drifting about aimlessly and found that the man in charge had fallen asleep. We took the oars and rowed ourselves, but it was jolly hard work and it took us three hours to get back to our base. If you've never tried manipulating a kistie, you should have a shot at it. The oars get crossed and you get in a hopeless tangle until you really acquire the knack."



MAJOR-GENERAL STRATEMEYER ON BURMA FRONT.—Major-General George E. Stratemeyer, Commanding Eastern Air Command, and Air Marshal Sir John Baldwin, Air Officer Commanding Tactical Air Force, recently inspected the Allied Air Forces on the Burma Front.

Major-General Stratemeyer being greeted by an R.A.F. Officer on his arrival at one of the airfields. On the right is Air Marshal Sir John Baldwin.

GALLANT MADRAS SAPPER GAVE LIFE TO SAVE OTHERS

The news that Subedar Subrahmanyam, an Indian Sapper, gave his life by deliberately flinging himself on a mine at Cassino (Italy) to save his Officer and several other Indian Other Ranks did not come as a surprise to those who knew him, especially a veteran Officer in South India, who knew him well.

According to this officer, Subrahmanyam was always an inspiration to the men who worked with him. He was a go-getter and kept his Company up to the mark the whole time, not an easy task when detachments were often some considerable distances apart.

It may be recalled that Subrahmanyam won the I.D.S.M. in 1943 for gallant conduct in the Tunisian Campaign. The citation stated that he had shown great courage and initiative when taking part in operations near Oued Zigzaou in Tunisia on 22nd March 1943. He also distinguished himself at Oued Amarit in Tunisia.

Incidentally Subrahmanyam's father is Hon. Lieut. Kanniyaraman, who also won the I.D.S.M. and served in 61, K.G.O. Madras Pioneers.

The deceased sapper's home is in Kil Ottivakkam village near Wallajabad, Conjeeveram taluk, Chingleput district. He joined the Army in 1932 and also served in Razmak (North-West Frontier Province) in 1939–40, going overseas in April 1941.

"A MILLSTONE ROUND THE GERMANS' NECK"

By M. FISHER

THE sirens wail in Berlin day and night, and day and night Berlin people rush down to the air-raid shelters. There is hardly a pause now. By day it is American airmen, at night British bombers who attack the German capital. The city has no normal life any longer. Traffic is paralysed in many parts of Berlin; there is no gas or electricity. Whole sections of the town, the main traffic centres and the great business and factory quarters have been razed to the ground. The great railway junctions have been put out of action.

What can the Berliner's thoughts be when he comes out of the shelter after a raid and sees the devastation with his own eyes? Not even Goebbels's most cunning propaganda, which for four years has managed completely to delude the German people, can conceal the terrible truth. Goering's lighthearted promise that not a single British bomb would ever fall on German soil must be present to everybody's mind like a grim mockery.

Now the truth will out. German propaganda can no longer preach faith and confidence and the "divine mission" of their Fuehrer to the haggard and exhausted population of Berlin.

Now news comes from Sweden that the Berlin authorities are seriously contemplating evacuating the town. The Stockholm paper *Afton Tidningen* of March 7 reported that at a conference of competent authorities it was decided that since the Government must reckon with heavy and continuous Allied air attacks in the next few weeks, total evacuation of the town must be considered.

Only those who know what Berlin meant for the German Reich, not only now but even before the war, can gauge the full import of this proposal. Berlin is, so to speak, the main artery of the Reich. From there the life-blood flows to every part of the country. Berlin is the centre of administration, of the traffic of war, of the armaments industry; it is the seat of the Government and the Ministries. The Nazis themselves have always fully realized the importance and significance of Berlin as the heart of the country, and so long as it was in any way possible, they hesitated to evacuate the Ministries and seats of administration, since this would involve decentralization.

Up to now Berlin has been the pivot of the great German industries, the headquarters of armies and the centre of political life. In the main thoroughfares and business quarters which now lie in ruins, there was noise, life and movement day and night. Now all is quiet, not sound. Not only is the city dead, but its ruins sprawl right across the German system of communications. Shortage of labour is so acute that the rubble cannot be cleared away and means of communication re-established. There is no question of rebuilding the houses—not even the most urgent repairs of traffic installations and destroyed industrial buildings and plants can be carried out. Consequently the capacity of production is dangerously impaired and steady flow of war material can no longer be maintained.

Berlin thus has become a millstone round the Nazis' neck. The advantages of centralization of transport, production and administration in this one town have been turned into a bane. For geographical reasons and considerations of prestige the Nazis cannot do without this capital, but this former symbol of Prussianism is now nothing but a wreck that is in the way and has become a danger and a heavy liability.

KNOCK-OUT OF 'LUFTWAFFE'

By E. COLSTON SHEPHERD

WE have grown accustomed in Britain to the view that strategic bombing cannot be expected to yield quick results. The opinion attributed to an American spokesman in London that the *Luftwaffe* can be knocked out within 30 to 60 days sounds to British ears like asking a cart-horse to gallop.

Admitting that the scale of heavy bombings has risen and is still rising and agreeing that the German fighter strength has suffered seriously in air battles, we, who have watched the fruits of persistence, are unwilling to prophesy a swift final victory. Germany has shown certain skill in stretching her resources. The present optimism concerning the overthrow of her air arm rests on the alternative assumptions that she will present her fighter forces for a decisive series of combats or that if she rufuses combat, her aircraft can be destroyed on the ground.

Air forces in Europe are said to have been ordered to overwhelm the *Luftwaffe* and the best way to do it is to cut off their supply of aircraft and to shoot down those already in the front line. Neither method can be sure of complete success within a given period or in a given theatre of war. Goebbels was boasting the other day of the wide dispersal of the German aircraft industry in occupied countries and, tainted though that source is, we know that there is an element of truth in his statement. The bombing of factories which make aircraft components and of shops in which they are assembled could be expected to have an immediate effect only if the German production had been unable to build up a reserve during the winter.

For the greater part of the year, Germany has profited from the changeover to fighter production. That change was made during the winter of 1942. By mid-summer last, the fighter output was estimated at about 1,000 monthly. It has since risen to 1,500 and there were hopes in the Reich that it would go up to 2,000. That hope began to fall when the big aircraft shops at Wienerneustadt were damaged by the Americans early this year and when the Royal Air Force went for the components works in Liepzig, Munich, Augsburg and Oscerslen. There were other attacks on Regensburg, Brunswick and the industrial areas of Berlin.

During the past three months the German aircraft industry has been hard hit. Certain of its satellites in France have been harshly dealt with but those parts which were moved into East Prussia, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Baltic States suffered compartively little. The remaining flow of aircraft from such sources may not have been quite enough to replace the losses of the past three months and yet sufficient to allay serious anxiety, particularly in view of the large

(Continued on page 16.)

MEN'S FACES JUST LITERALLY "LIT UP"

The following letter has been received by the Honorary Secretary, Joint War Charities Committee, Madras, from a Captain of an Indian regiment :—

"I must write and thank you for sending to this Company gramophone, records and books. They have taken a long time to arrive at us but then we have done a few miles since they were dispatched and after much hunting we managed to locate the boxes and now we have music every evening.

When I put the first record on and it was Tamil, the men's faces just literally "Lit up" and it was good to see.

They all ask that I will send you their thanks and I hope you will convey to your committee and your own goodself my very best thanks for such a grand effort, and so good luck to you all and Thanks again."

GERMANY'S STORY OF DEFEAT ON EVERY FRONT

By LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR DOUGLAS BROWNRIGG

THESE have been black days for Germany—a story of defeat on every front.

In Italy Kesselring's third failure to dislodge the Allied army at Anzio has been followed by a period of comparative quiet. This means either that the Germans are preparing for another attempt to drive General Alexander's men into the sea unless Hitler has accepted the presence of this running sore because he can spare no more reserves to deal with it.

On the main fronts the Fifth and the Eighth Armies' active patrolling has been the order of the day so as to prevent the enemy from withdrawing troops to other fronts, whilst the air forces whenever the weather has made it possible have attacked troop concentrations opposite the Anzio perimeter and communications and marshelling yards further north. Every day that passes brings better weather nearer and makes the German task in Italy more difficult. Meanwhile Anzio remains a steady drain on German resources.

The last few days in Russia have been one of tremendous tidings. The three Ukrainian army groups under Zhukov, Konev and Malinovsky represent the prongs of the mighty trident which Marshal Stalin is thrusting to the southwest against the Balkans. The prongs have pierced Manstein's epidermis and torn away the flesh in chunks. He is now reeling back and his only hope of continued existence would seem to be a complete regrouping of his forces (or such portions of them as he can still save) in the 100-mile wide gap between the Transylvanian Alps and the Black Sea.

This line—if he can get there in time—has several advantages. In the first place it would reduce the frontage from 400 miles to 100 and although its communications back to Germany are far longer than the direct lines from Odessa (which has now been finally rendered useless to him) yet there are three single-line railways which run across the Dniester into Rumania and which should be sufficient to keep his attenuated force supplied with the bare necessities for fighting.

Here for a while he might bar the Allies' path into the Balkans but the comfort of his position will depend very largely on what goes on in his rear.

A few weeks ago the alternative lines of supply back to Germany through Rumania and Hungary looked secure enough, but since then there have been increased whisperings and rustlings in those countries and in Bulgaria.

Manstein's lines of communications would then traverse in a countryside which would no longer even wear the look of friendliness. Stations might be burnt out and trains mysteriously derailed, as now so often happens in Yugoslavia. The outlook for Manstein has very noticeably darkened as he looks towards the Russian armies of the Ukraine and heavy clouds are rolling up behind him. Meanwhile the Allied air forces working from bases in Britain and Italy have increased the weight of their attacks on German industries.

A stage in air warfare has been reached when Allied airmen hope to meet opposition rather than avoid it because by destroying German fighters they steadily alter the balance against the Luftwaffe.

Once upon a time Goering had the freedom of choice in the targets he selected for attack, now he cannot find the means to defend all the targets he presents to his enemies.

"THE UNSINKABLE AIRCRAFT-CARRIER"

By OSWALD DUTCH

IN this war we have learnt to accept certain figures without bothering our heads about the amount of organization, labour and co-ordination they imply. We have read, for instance, that 1,500 aircraft simultaneously took part in a raid on Frankfort (800 bombers and 700 fighters). Nobody, however, could imagine that these 1,500 aircraft took off from a single airfield. No airfield, however large, could accommodate so many planes.

Even when only 1,000 or 1,200 heavy bombers and fighters take off for a specific raid, they are generally marshalled from some 40 or 50 different airfields to carry out their concentrated attack lasting from 20 to 30 minutes. Since such gigantic air squadrons have often taken off uninterruptedly, by day and by night, for 72 hours on end, it is possible to form some idea of the number of airfields on the "unsinkable aircraft-carrier", as England is ofen called.

SIMULTANEOUS MASS ATTACKS

The Times recently stated that there were at least 400 airfields in Great Britain from which the largest and heaviest types of aircraft can take off. This means that in case of necessity 8 mass attacks from Great Britain can be organized simultaneously. Moreover, what is perhaps even more important for the future, one can also gather how well equipped the British Isles will be for any developments in civilian air transport after the war, since they already possess so many ultra modern landing places.

Up to a certain point the construction of modern airfields may be compared with the building of an extensive road system. Figures officially published in Great Britain show that the concrete runways and perimeter tracks of these British airfields represent a total area of nearly 160,000,000 square yards which corresponds to 9,000 miles of roads of an average width of 7½ meters. All this was built during the war at a cost of £615,000,000 so far. Eighty per cent of these airfields are for the use of the Royal Air Force, the remaining 20 per cent were built for the American Air Force. The area covered by these airfields is gigantic. The average airfield has an area of 2 to 2½ square miles; it is surrounded by a concrete perimeter track some 8 kilometres long and 15 metres wide. This track encloses the runways, usually three in number, of which one is 1,800 metres and the others are 1,150 metres long. There are larger airfields with runways up to 2,700 metres long and 90 metres wide.

The large number of available airfields makes any surprise from the air impossible. Even if the Germans still possessed the means for mass air-raids on England, they might possibly damage one or another airfield or put it temporarily out of action altogether; but they could not in any way reduce the striking power of the British and American air fleets. This fact might be of some importance if at the beginning of the landings on the Continent the Germans should attempt to interfere with the air cover of the landing troops by attacking British airfields. Two or three years ago this might have been partially successful. To-day, however, the "unsinkable aircraft-carrier" has become so strong that nothing could impair its striking power.

(*Continued from page* 15.)

output of the preceding six months. Germany may quite possibly have built 7,000 or 8,000 fighters during that period. She has not lost one half of them in combat on the western and the southern fronts and she may be expected still to have units in Western Europe with a front line strength of about 1,500 fighter aircraft.

A force of that size may indeed be inadequate for the defensive work of such magnitude as that which has faced her during February and March. The Luftwaffe may well be questing about for new means of making a little go a long way. Some change in the tactical or the strategical plan may explain in part the immunity from opposition enjoyed by the American heavies that went to Berlin and to Munster recently. Whether the Luftwaffe intends to try an offensive against Allied air bases or to save its strength for an attempt to "scotch", the invasion when the second front opens, it is obviously persuaded of the need to take a long view.

The Allies will have to be sure of bringing the Luftwaffe to full combat if they are to knock it out in 60 days. The opening of the second front would probably do it but the prospects of tempting it to destruction without a gambit of that order are small as we in Britain have found during the past three years.

ACTIVITIE'S IN ARAKAN

HATRED, DEATH AND FAMINE, THEY ARE HIS FOLLOWERS.

DREW JAP FIRE TO HIMSELF

Two more posthumous awards of the I.O.M. (2nd Class) have been made for gallantry on the Chin Hills and Arakan fronts.

Determined to wipe out the few Japs responsible for holding up the advance of his platoon, Rfn. Kabiraj Limbu, 4th Gurkha Rifles, of Jamuna village, Ilam tehsil, Nepal, ran forward with a grenade after getting a Bren gun into position forward. He fell dead riddled with bullets, when eight yards from his main object.

"But he did not die in vain" says the citation. "The diversion he caused drew Jap fire temporarily off the rest of his platoon and enabled it to improve its positions."

Borrowing a rifle and bayonet Sepoy Gawanda, 17th Dogra Regiment, by himself charged a bunker position in Arakan. Returning he took a tommy-gun and although wounded made a fresh charge; the weapon jammed but without hesitation he came back, took hold of a dah and made a third charge in which he was killed.

He set an example which other men followed by capturing the enemy bunker in a bayonet charge. Sepoy Gawanda's village was Chhatri Laht, Palampur tehsil, Kangra (Punjab).

By assuming responsibility unhesitatingly at a critical period, rifleman Purba Sherpa, 4th Gurkha Rifles, Allobari village, Darjeeling district, awarded the I.O.M. (2nd Class) held with three others, a breach he had made in enemy defences for a difficult 20 minutes, although wounded. Only in compliance with an order from an officer did this Gurkha allow himself to be taken to the Regimental Aid Post. He was the sole survivor.

Jemadar Sarwan Singh, 17th Punjab Regiment, cleared an enemy bunker after four separate bayonet charges, killing the occupants. He held it for some time, though wounded, during the bayonet charges. In great pain, his courage, skill and leadership never failed.

Jemadar Sarwan Singh, who has been awarded the I.O.M. (2nd Class) comes from Karol village, Kangra district.

Personally leading an assault of ten men, Subedar Arian Singh, 1st Punjab Regiment, took an enemy post in the face of intense machine-gun and grenade fire. He pushed on to the second post, where he was seriously wounded and became unconscious. Recovering, he was unable to stand but directed and organized the evacuation of the wounded and refused to move until all serious cases had been removed.

He also was awarded the I.O.M. (2nd Class). He comes from Dharam, Garh village, Kharbar district, Ambala.

Another I.O.M. (2nd Class) has been awarded to Jemadar Hosknaki, 17th Dogras, of Salnu village, Bilaspur State, Simla. During the attack he led his platoon to within 30 yards of the enemy, killed three Japs, and wounded others. He repeated this performance on a second occasion.

INDIAN GUNNER SHOOTS DOWN A JAPANESE BOMBER

The story can now be told of an attack by some ten Japanese aircraft on two small steamers off the Arakan coast—an attack which ended in the destruction of one bomber and the "singing" of another.

It happened recently when a force of 26 Jap planes set out to do damage to our waterborne supply line near the India-Burma frontier.

The ships were 120 feet long, and had only light armament. They are two of the little fleet of river steamers which, under the command of Army Officers, have done such good service in the Arakan campaign.

The Jap sweeped down when the ships were steaming northwards about five miles apart. They attacked in pairs, one bombing, the other machine-gunning.

But the steamers' guns chattered defiance, the enemy was wide with nearly everything he sent down and the climax came when one bomber dived into the river, victim of an Indian gunner on board the first ship while another made off apparently damaged by the second.

Two of the few casualties on board were the Officer Commanding one of the ships and the successful gunner, but neither was seriously hurt, and the only damage to the two little ships consisted of a few bullet holes.

INDIAN SAPPERS CLEAR ARAKAN MINEFIELD

Clearing mines laid by the Japs in their retreat from Buthidaung was one of the tricky jobs performed by Indian sappers with the front-line troops, writes an Indian Army Observer with the Fourteenth Army.

Before they left the Buthidaung area the Japs laid mines extensively on the northern and eastern approaches to the town. The task of clearing this minefield and making a safe path for tanks and vehicles was carried out by a party of sappers from two field companies of the Seventh Indian Division.

Although trained in this work, this was the first time these men had carried out mine-detecting under operational conditons. Under constant danger of enemy shelling, the sappers detected and removed nearly a hundred mines.

"I hear you've been doing very well at school, John," said the fond grandparent. "What is your best subject—reading, writing or arithmetic?"

A look of quiet contempt crossed young John's face as he replied:—

"Don't be so absurd, grandpa! I produced the best plan for post-war reconstruction."

MILITARY MISCELLANY

HAVILDAR'S EXPERIENCES IN SNOWSTORM

Some idea of the rigours of the Italian winter, especially in the Appennines sector, may be gathered from the experiences of a havildar and a British N.C.O.

A havildar and an Italian officer were foregoing for local produce in Southern Italy when they were cut off by a snowstorm, writes an Indian Army Observer. After sheltering for 24 hours in their truck, the Italian officer said he would go and get help.

He did not come back, so the havildar set off on his own. Weak with exhaustion and cold he stumbled through the snow. When within twenty yards of a British truck he collapsed. But before he did, he managed to call for help. British troops in the truck heard him and dragged him to their lorry. He was taken to the hospital and has now recovered.

Next day digging through the snowdrifts, British troops found the body of the Italian officer a few yards away from where the havildar had collapsed.

A British N.C.O. worked all day trying to get some frozen vehicles started and by the evening he was soaking wet. To prevent catching pneumonia, he took off all his clothes and lay wrapped in blankets at the back of the truck.

Next morning when he went to put on his clothes they were frozen stiff. He had to lie between the blankets in the truck for the next 24 hours until a new battle-dress could be brought to him.

When he got his other clothes back to the quartermaster's stores they were stiff with frost for several hours.

* * *

THE MULES SHOW THEIR PACES

Amid all the problem which have beset sappers in the construction of their roads and M.T. personnel in the maintenance of their vehicles, the Animal Transport Companies have gone quietly on patiently discharging the heavy responsibility thrust on them in the difficult terrain of the Assam-Burma front.

A host of stories has grown round these mule companies on the Burma border.

One company Commander, asked to provide 130 mules, sent out his newest recruits and remounts under the impression that they were required for an exercise and that this would be an excellent opportunity to train them. Much to his surprise he later learned that they had been used with a detachment on an actual operational move.

Out of the total animals used 129 returned, all with the exception of three being in first-class condition. Mules and men had more than proved their worth under trying conditions after only a few weeks training.

Often mules are called upon to swim swollen streams, and they invariably accomplish their feat where horses become confused and fail. A patrol which penetrated to the other side of the Chindwin in the dry weather was accompanied by mules which swam across with the greatest ease.

Once when a troop was on the march on a track over the border, a tiger was seen sitting in the undergrowth several yards from the tract. Solemnly it watched the procession go by and, according to one driver, it appeared to be "interested and friendly."

* * *

THEY SAY IT WITH SONGS

The singing of Hindustani songs by British sergeants and "Tipperary" and other English songs by havildars is a feature of off-duty hours at a Middle-East Weapon Training School in India.

In the desire to get to know each other the sergeant-instructors of the British Wing invited the havildars of the Indian Wing to become members of their mess. Language differences caused no difficulty.

Not only did this lead to a grand feeling of fellowship but was of considerable help in exchanging ideas about weapons and their use in training.

* * *

EDUCATING SERVICE MEN'S CHILDREN

Educating the children of service personnel who have lost their lives in the war and assisting the sons and daughters of servicemen, is the object of an Educational Endowment Scheme evolved by Royal Indian Army Service Corps.

Part of the R.I.A.S.C. Fund (Indian) is to be utilized for the scheme. Serving soldiers, units and organized entertainments are contributing to this fund. It is expected that unit regimental funds which have to be liquidated at the end of the war will also be used and, with the considerable number R.I.A.S.C. units in the Indian Army, a large amount is likely to be available. Already a substantial sum of money has been collected.

Depending on funds a preparatory school for these children may be started to give initial training before they go on to higher education and subsequently into Government service including the Army, Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Air Force, the Indian Police and the Indian Civil Service.

Scholarships and other financial assistance will be given to ensure that the largest number of the children of R.I.A.S.C. officers, V.C.Os. and other ranks receive the best basic education to the age of 16 and to provide higher general, scientific and technical training to a limited number who show special aptitude and promise.

Orphans will have priority of claim and a large number of the scholarships will go to the children of V.C.Os. and Indian other ranks.

A story is told of an American conscript who needed a minor nose treatment. "Since you're the one who discovered this," he told his medical board doctor, "how about doing the treatment yourself?" The doctor told him to report at his surgery the next morning.

When he arrived, the doctor said: "Go into the next room and remove all your clothes."

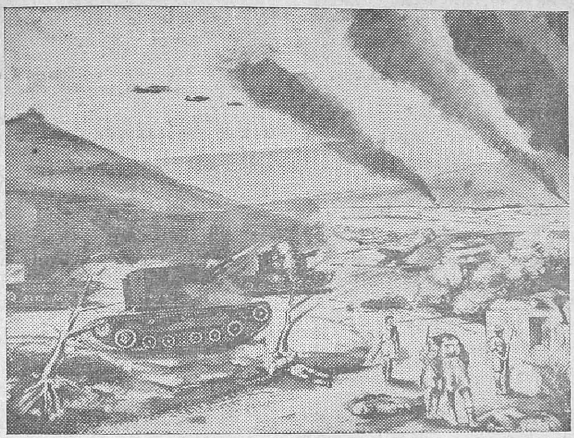
"Just for a nose treatment?" the patient protested wonderingly.

The man went into the adjoining room and removed his clothes. There he saw a stranger, also nude, holding a parcel.

"All I came here for is a minor nose treatment," the conscript grumbled to him, "and the doc makes me take all my clothes off and stand about shivering here."

"That's nothing," sighed the other, "I just came to deliver a parcel."

"Art achievements under the Fuehrer's supervision have reached a higher point than ever before . . . ."—(Dr. Goebbels).



BRITAIN RELEASES A SECRET WEAPON—THE DEADLY "BISHOP" GUN HELPED TO WIN SICILY VICTORY.—Britain has now released one of her "secret weapons"—The "Bishop" Mobile gun. This is the famous 25-pounder mounted on a Valentine tank chassis, a weapon which proved of immense value in the victorious Sicilian Campaign. Time and again the mobility of this gun was the undoing of the enemy-opening up from unexpected quarters and forcing the surrender of key posts. Picture shows *an artist's impression of Bishops going into action.*

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

29TH MAR.—Allied aircraft attacked Brunswick.

Mr. Eden said that Allies are following a united policy with regard to Europe.

30TH MAR.—Allied bombers attacked Kiel and other objectives in Western Germany.

Mr. Churchill stated in the House of Commons to-day that the Atlantic Charter and its principles remained Britain's dominating aim.

31ST MAR.—Nuremberg and other targets in Germany were very heavily attacked by the Allied bombers.

There was slight German air activity over east and south-east England including the London area.

1ST APRIL.—Allied planes bombed military objectives in western and south-western Germany. Brenen and Hanover were among the places hit.

2ND APRIL.—Last night Mosquitos of the Bomber Command attacked objectives in Hanover, Krefeld and Aachen.

During March over 8,000 Royal Air Force night bombers dropped 28,000 tons of bombs including 20,000 on Germany itself.

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

29TH MAR.—The United States Foreign Economic Administrator, Mr. Leo Crowley, made a statement on the Lend-lease aid of war materials by America to the Allies.

President Roosevelt has signed a Bill enabling the United States to participate in the work of U.N.R.R.A.

Mr. Robert Patterson, the United States Under-Secretary of War, told the House of Representatives Military Affairs Committee that the time had arrived when 3½ million men hitherto classified as unfit for military service, must be assigned to essential industry or enter the army in labour battalions.

30TH MAR.—In the course of a statement, the United States Secretary of War, Mr. H. L. Stimson, reported that United States Army Air Forces had destroyed 9,463 Axis aircraft in the air last year and 1,579 on the ground.

Mr. Stimson said that the overseas strength of the United States Army would be doubled by the end of 1944. On January 1st, he said, one-third of the Army was abroad.

31ST MAR.—President Roosevelt, in a message to the Congress to-day, said he was allowing the Soldiers Vote Bill to become law without his signature.

The United States Navy Department announced that in operations in the Mediterranean from January 22, 11 American ships were lost. These losses bring the total United States losses to 158.

1ST APRIL.—Casualties of the United States armed forces from the outbreak of the war to date total 173,239 according to a report of the Office of War Information.

2ND APRIL.—The Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, Mr. John W. Pehle to-night said that all the power and prestige of the United States was being used by the board to save victims of Nazi agression.

The United States Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Adolfe Belle and Vice-Chairman of the United States Civil Aeronautics Board, Dr. Edward Warner reached Britain to discuss civil aviation questions.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

29TH MAR.—In the coastal plain south of Maungdaw, Allied patrols were active and there was some artillery activity says to-day's South-east Asia Command Communiqué.

30TH MAR.—To-day's South-east Asia Command Communiqué says that on the coastal plain south of Maungdaw, patrols of both sides have been active during the last 24 hours. The western tunnel on the Maungdaw-Buthidaung Road has been captured.

The Victoria Cross has been awarded posthumously to Lieutenant Alan George Harwood, D.C.M., for valour in Burma.

31ST MAR.—His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief made a statement in the Central Assembly on the Assam-Burma Front.

South of Maungdaw Allied patrols were active both on the coastal plain and in the foot-hills says to-day's Allied War Communiqué. Enemy pressure continues along the Tiddim-Imphal road and in the vicinity of Palel. Enemy artillery shelled Allied positions near Tamu.

1ST APRIL.—It is announced that Major-General Wingate has been killed in an aeroplane crash while on a flight across the jungles on the India-Burma frontier. The crash took place on March 24.

The enemy in the neighbourhood of Ukhrul has made some further advance to the west at the cost of heavy casualties. East of Kohima severe fighting continued throughout 30th and 31st March.

2ND APRIL.—Small parties of the enemy have now infiltrated to points on the Imphal-Kohima road and are being engaged by the Allied troops. Rangoon railway station was bombed on 1-2.

Lord Louis Mountbatten has paid high tributes to Major-General Wingate, in an Order of the Day.

The Air Officer Commanding South-east Asia Command, Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse, who recently made an inspection tour of Ceylon told Royal Air Force and Royal Canadian Air Units stationed in Ceylon that "the enemy is increasing his activities in the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal. You will soon have plenty to do."

3RD APRIL.—East of Imphal Allied patrols inflicted casualties on the enemy in the foot hills says to-day's South-east Asia Command Comuniqué

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

29TH MAR.—Russian forces have crossed the River Pruth. Fighting is taking place in the suburbs of Cernauti. The battle for Odessa has opened. The Red Army has captured *Kolomea*, Balta, Kirvoye-Ozero, Bolshaya-Vradyevka, Yastrebinovka and Moldavka.

It is said that Finnish-Russian contacts are being resumed.

30TH MAR.—Soviet troops captured *Cernauti*, capital of Bukovina and other district centres and towns of Thumacz Nadworna, Delyatin, Obertyn, Sablotov, Lipcani, Rybnitsa, Lyubatovka, Mostovoye, Vesalinovo, Varvarovka and numerous other localities.

31ST MAR.—The Red Army has cut Kishinev-Jarsy railway line. The Russians have captured Dunaevtsy, *Ochakav*. Soviet troops stand only 15 miles from the Czechoslovak border and within 10 miles of Bukovina-Rumanian border. Other places captured by the Russians are Darabany, Kapleotha, Griva, Mamalyga, Kotovsk, Ananyev, etc.

The Soviet and Japanese Governments have signed a protocol whereby Japan agrees to transfer to the Soviet of Japanese oil and coal concessions in Northern Sakhalin.

1ST APRIL.—The Russians had broken into Tarnapol. They have captured Podhajce. The three-way drive on Odessa continued.

Dr. Paasikivi, Finnish elder statesman, has reported modifications in Russia's armistice terms to Helsinki, after two days conferences in Moscow. Finnish military personnel on leave have been recalled.

It is probable that the Finnish Government will announce a new decision on the Finnish-Russian relations when Parliament meets in full session.

2ND APRIL.—The Russians have crossed the Pruth at several points into Rumania.

3RD APRIL.—M. Molotov, Foreign Commissar of Soviet Russia, made a statement regarding the entry of the Russian forces into Rumania.

Battle of Rumania is in full swing.

The Russian forces have captured the towns of Gorokhov, Berestechko, Lopatin, etc.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

29TH MAR.—Allies withdrew from two positions in Cassino. Patrols were active on all fronts.

30TH MAR.—Two small enemy attacks on the Fifth Army Allied bridgehead were repulsed. Allied patrols were active on all fronts.

The United States War Secretary, Mr. H. L. Stimson, told a press conference that the Allied attack on Cassino had subsided "without achieving the results we had hoped".

His Majesty the King has awarded the Victoria Cross to Captain William Sidney for superb courage on Anzio front.

31ST MAR.—Enemy attacks against Allied positions at Cassino were repulsed. Elsewhere patrols were active on all fronts.

1ST APRIL.—Allied troops in the mountainous central sector advanced about a mile and occupied the important height Mount Marone.

2ND APRIL.—Allied forces captured another hill. Patrols were active on all fronts.

3RD APRIL.—Allies have gained another 4,000 feet height north-east of Monte Marrone.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

29TH MAR.—Allied aircraft bombed military objectives in the Pas De Calais area.

The Polish Ambassador M. Ciechanovski presented to the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull, a message for President Roosevelt from the Polish Government. It is presumed that this may be the beginning of a new effort to settle the Russo-Polish dispute.

30TH MAR.—Last night Allied bombers attacked Vaires and Lyons. Sofia, capital of Bulgaria, was heavily bombed by the Allied aircraft.

1ST APRIL.—Plans drawn up by the French National Committee of Liberation for the administration of France's various areas as soon as they are liberated by the invasion have been communicated to the British, American and Soviet Governments.

The French Supreme Resistance Council and National Resistance Council held a Congress somewhere in France to unify the attitude and policy of the various Resistance Groups.

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THE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

29TH MAR.—A motion, calling for the resumption of relations between Switzerland and Russia, was accepted by the Swiss Federal Council.

31ST MAR.—"The position regarding the presence of Axis Legations in Dublin is being very carefully watched" declared Mr. Paul Emrys-Evans, Under Secretary for the Dominions in the Commons to-day.

The Turkish ship *Krom* has been sunk by an unidentified submarine.

1ST APRIL.—General Franco presided over a meeting of the Spanish Cabinet yesterday at which authority was given for naval defence measures.

American bombers by mistake dropped bombs on the Swiss town Schaffavsen on April 1st.

2ND APR.—The United States Minister in Berne, Mr. Leland Harrison, has expressed regret to the Swiss Federal Government for the accidental bombing of Schaffavsen.

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THE FAR EAST

29TH MAR.—United States bombers attacked yesterday Jap barracks at Vin Yen in Indo-China.

The United States aircraft bombed Pakin island in the Carolines.

The Australian Prime Minister, Mr. John Curtin, said that the war in the Pacific would not be ended until the Australian prisoners captured in Malaya had been released.

30TH MAR.—The great Jap naval base of Truk in the Carolines was attacked and 49 enemy aircraft destroyed.

31ST MAR.—Palau Island in the Western Caroline group was heavily attacked. The Japanese bases of Woleai, Babo, Kavieng, Namatanai, Rabaul, Wewak and Hollandia were attacked.

1ST APRIL.—Allied forces have occupied Pityalu island in the Admiralty group. Allied heavy bombers attacked Truk, Penfoli, Rabaul and Bougainville.

2ND APRIL.—Allied air forces attacked Japanese aerodromes at Hollandia, Truk, etc., and destroyed about 82 enemy aircraft.

3RD APR.—Rabaul was heavily attacked by the Allied bombers. Allied troops on Bougainville island are making steady advance against the enemy.

FOR YOUR RADIO DIARY.

APRIL 13.—MADRAS—9-45 p.m. Radio Blitzgrieg—By Mr. J. Vijayatunga.

LAST MONTH. . . —

1ST MAR.—Allies land in Admiralty Islands.

2ND MAR.—Mr. Churchill congratulates Lord Louis Mountbatten on Allied Victory in the Arakan.

8TH MAR.—Thousand bombers bomb Berlin.

10TH MAR.—Russian forces capture Uman.

13TH MAR.—Soviet troops capture Kherson.

13TH MAR.—Allies capture Buthidaung.

17TH MAR.—The Red Army captures Dubno.

18TH MAR.—Russian troops occupy Zhmerinka.

19TH MAR.—Soviet forces capture Kremenets.

20TH MAR.—The Red Army captures Vinnitsa.

22ND MAR.—Jap columns cross into Manipur state.

24TH MAR.—Major-General Wingate killed in aircrash.

25TH MAR.—Russian armies capture Proskurov.

28TH MAR.—Soviet troops capture Nikolaev.

29TH MAR.—The Red Army occupies Kolmea.

30TH MAR.—Russians capture Cernauti.

31ST MAR.—Soviet troops capture Ochakav.

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS, AND PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF WAR PUBLICITY, "VICTORY HOUSE," MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.